

AHANA

ROTARY CLUB OF CALCUTTA JADAVPUR BULLETIN

VOLUME LVI, September 25th 2024



October is Economic and Community Development Month

Rotary



**ROTARY CLUB OF
CALCUTTA JADAVPUR**

Stephanie A. Urchick
RI President

Dr. Krishnendu Gupta
District Governor
RID 3291

Dr. Mainak Sengupta
Club President

Soumya Chattopadhyay
Club Secretary

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Bulletin Editor

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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Festive greetings to all my Rotarian friends. The month of October marks the birth anniversaries of two eminent Indian political personalities The father of our nation - Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi and the other second prime minister of India, Lal Bahadur Shastri. In the present scenario of global unrest, the philosophy of Ahimsa (non-violence) that these two great men stood for, is all the more remembered. This month we celebrated Durgotsab and Diwali , two of the greatest annual festivals of the Hindu community. Interestingly, these festivals promote economic and community development for a magnitude of underprivileged people, the artisans from different sectors and the unskilled labourers as well. This festive month thus turns out to be in perfect sync with the Rotary's area of focus for the month of October that is Economic and Community Development. Rotary Club of Calcutta Jadavpur, through continuing diverse sustainable projects, has been promoting economic and community development, enhancing local entrepreneurship, and improving community-economic infrastructure, thus empowering communities to achieve self-sufficiency and resilience.

Good luck and greetings to all once again for the forthcoming festivals in November.

Minutes of the Meeting: 2134th RCM held on 25th September 2024

in Casa Broadway (Hybrid mode)

Time: 6.30pm onwards

Attendance: 29

- Rtn. (Dr.) Mainak Sengupta, President RY 24-25 called the meeting to order and requested IPP Paromita D Dutta to lead the National Anthem.
- President welcomed every member and guests, and got confirmed the minutes of the 2133rd RCM.
- The President presented a summary of the services of RCCJ from 17th Aug to 25th Sep 2024. He also announced the proposed upcoming services and declared the names of the kind donors for different services.
- Secretary Soumya Chattopadhyay conducted the club business announcing the birthdays of the members. All the participating members heartily conveyed their well wishes to them.
- President welcomed PDG Rtn. Mukul Sinha, District Literacy Chair and presented RCCJ's activities associated with Literacy and Basic Education, considering September is the Literacy month in Rotary. President requested PDG Rtn. Mukul Sinha, to share his views on the presentation and the work done. PDG Rtn. Mukul Sinha whole-heartedly appreciated the service projects undertaken so far, and through different anecdotes and real-life experiences, expressed what else needs to be /could be done in literacy to reach more needy beneficiaries.
- Then, it was time for RCCJ to acknowledge the contribution of two eminent teachers from Santoshpur Rishi Aurobindo Balika Vidyapith (SRABV) towards shaping young minds and paving the way to a better world. Ms. Sarbani Sen, Headmistress of the school was presented with the Nation Builder Award 2024, while Ms. Suchandra Sarkar, an Assistant Teacher from the same school was presented with EAZY School Teacher Recognition Award. PDG Rtn. Mukul Sinha, handed over the awards to the two teachers. Honorary member Dr. Arup Ratan Datta felicitated PDG Mukul Sinha with a framed drawing of one of our beneficiary students of Pathshala, Bolpur.
- President welcomed Mr. Mithun Das, assistant teacher of Baruipur High School and invited him to express his views on the recent literacy activities RCCJ has been undertaking in the school. Mithun Das appreciated the efforts and mentioned, on behalf of the headmaster of the school, that the school looks forward to more of such activities.
- The meeting was then called to an end by the President.

Minutes of the Meeting: 2135th RCM held on 25th September 2024

in Casa Broadway (Hybrid mode)

Time: 6.30pm onwards

Attendance: 25

- Rtn. (Dr.) Mainak Sengupta, President RY 24-25 called the meeting to order and requested PP Kuna Ray to lead the National Anthem.
- President welcomed every member and guests, and got confirmed the minutes of the 2134th RCM.
- The President presented a summary of the services of RCCJ from 25th Sep to 28th Oct 2024.
- Secretary Soumya Chattopadhyay conducted the club business announcing the birthdays of the members. All the participating members heartily conveyed their well wishes to them.
- President welcomed Rtn. Shakhi Banerjee to host the Bijoya Shommiloni event. Thereafter, the members celebrated the occasion with gay and merriment. Rtn. Shakhi Banerjee thoughtfully organized the entire cultural event. IPP Rtn. Paromita Das Dutta presented two beautiful songs, followed by a one-of-its kind of performance by PP Rtn. Chitra Mandal who recited poems from Shahoj Path, Prothom Bhag that made us all do a time-travel to our childhood. President Mainak Sengupta presented a few nazms and a song. The president also joined Secretary Soumya Chattopadhyay and Sourav Ghoshal as they sung a few old peppy Bengali film numbers. Rtn. Shakhi Banerjee also presented a beautiful song. The event show-stopper was however, a 'shruti natok' by PP Jaydeb Banerjee and Shakhi Banerjee. It was hilarious to the core, and enjoyed by one and all. The cultural event was followed by a gala dinner.



■ CALCUTTA JADAVPUR

Regular tuition classes and extra-curricular activities are held at Pathshala (Bolpur) for the 40 odd needy children (from class V to VIII) from Dwaronda and adjoining villages in Bolpur.

As a part of an ongoing project of donation towards treatment cost, Rs. 10,000/- each was given to Nishan Das (16 yrs - admitted in Medica Superspecialty Hospital), Sanvi Sultana (5 yrs - admitted in Tata Medical Hospital), Souradeep Shee (5 yrs - admitted in SGCCRI), Tua Mondal (7 yrs - admitted in SGCCRI), Sujit Kumar (14 yrs - admitted in Tata Medical Hospital), Shivkant Yadav (12 yrs - admitted in Tata Medical Hospital), Sujoy Manana (3 yrs 6 months), SK Asraful (15 yrs), Alokendu Makar (10 yrs 9 months), Kartick Kr Poddar (4 yrs), Harsh Kr Bedia (11 yrs 9 months) and Soumik Sarkar (3 yrs 9 months). Rs 20,000 was donated for Guljar Hussain (15 years).

Post-operative monitoring of an aged lady glaucomatous patient was held at Vivekananda Mission Ashram Netra Niramoy Niketan Eye Hospital by Rtn Dr. Asim Sil and his team.

2nd Aug: Contribution was made for the re-print of Acharya Ray Commemoration Volume inaugurated at the Rammohun Library & Free Reading Room during celebration of the 163rd Birth Anniversary of Acharya Prafulla Chandra Roy at the Raya

Debnath Auditorium. The re-print has been duly acknowledged in the book.

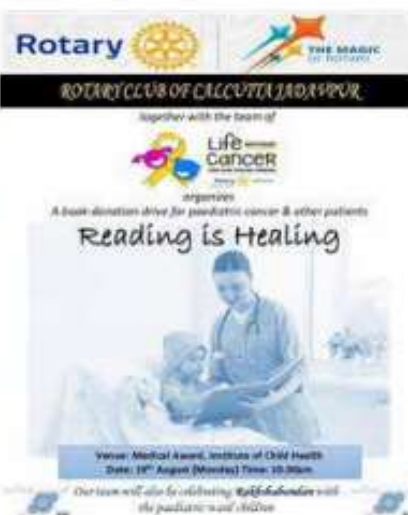
7th Aug: Gardening tools were given to the Interact Club of Dum Dum Ananda Ashrama Sarada Vidyapeeth, in presence of the teacher-in-charge and the HM of the school. This will help the students to initiate the process of kitchen gardening in the campus.

7th Aug: A refrigerator was donated to Apna Ghar (Salt Lake) - a transit home for cancer patients & others in need.

11th Aug: A session on Plant Cells, as a part of an ongoing project, was held by Rtn Dr. Dipankar Chakraborti at Udbhash.

13th Aug: A television set, more than 20 books and a mahogany sapling was donated for the inmates of Ma Kaali Old Age Home, Garia. A Health camp was also held and Rtn Dr. Arunava Das examined the 25 inmates and the staff of the Home. He discussed their ailment issues with them and prescribed medicines.

19th Aug: Desktop Computer sets (monitor, CPU, UPS, keyboard and mouse) were donated to Debandi High School and Khosalpur New Set Up Upper Primary School, Amta for computer education, in presence of the Headmasters of the respective schools and the School Inspector (Amta region). These computers were received from Rotary Calcutta as a part of their ongoing Siksha Labh project.



19th Aug: With Team LBC, more than 100 children's books were donated to the Pediatric Cancer Ward at Institute of Child Health, along with other clubs. Raksha Bandhan was celebrated with patients, nurses and doctors of ICH.

22nd Aug: An Environmental Literacy Quiz, as part of Eazy School 3 activity, was held at Baruipur High School. 70 students of classes 9-11 participated in the quiz. 36 students were selected after an elimination round and divided into 6 groups. The winners were presented with Krishna Lakhani Memorial Gold medals while the 6 members of the runners-up group were presented with Alok Ghosh Memorial Silver medals. The students were awarded Certificates.

28th Aug: Phase 4 of Mission Plastic Purge was held in Dumdum Ananda Ashram Sarada Vidyapeeth. Dr. Punarbasu Chaudhuri (faculty at Environmental Sciences, CU) created awareness on plastic pollution to the students of Classes VIII and IX, including Interactors. A group of 20 students were given gloves and sacks to clean the seminar room of plastics. The Interactors have taken the responsibility of creating groups for cleaning different rooms each day during the tiffin break.

30th Aug: An Awareness program on Cervical Cancer was held at Rashmoni Girls School at Baruipur. PP Chitra Mandal conducted the program in presence of around 250 students of class IX. Leaflets with information were distributed among the students.

■ CALCUTTA LABANHRAD

15th Aug: Under Eazy School 3 initiative, a Quiz Contest was held to celebrate Independence Day at Trinath Pally Primary School. Educational Kits were given to the students along with nutritious food packets.



Service Projects of the Month At a Glance

Mission Life Beyond Cancer



As a part of an ongoing service, from Sep 25th to Oct 31st, RCCJ **donated Rs1,51,500/- towards treatment of 13 pediatric cancer patients.** And we are proud to announce that with this **Life Beyond Cancer** have touched the lives of 500 pediatric cancer patients.

Mission Literacy and beyond

A. Tuition classes and cultural event in Pathshala

As an ongoing project, RCCJ organised daily tuition classes at Pathshala, Bolpur. Along with regular academic courses, the beneficiaries were also taught activities like yoga and drawing.

B. Science Club activities in Udbhash



As a part of an ongoing project, RCCJ organized science club session at Udbhash on 6th October. The students discussed topics of their interest, performed activities of interests, demonstrated some exhibits, and shared out of the box questions with each other. One student discussed his interests in earth's crust. One student displayed a hand-made cell exhibit and discussed the cellular organelles. Two students displayed martial arts techniques, and likewise.

Mission Virangana



On 26th Sep, RCCJ conducted project “**Virangana**” in Sanlaap’s Sneha Home near Elaichi, Narendrapur. The home, under the aegis of the NGO, Sanlaap is a shelter to girls of all ages rescued from sex trafficking. **Sensei Utpal Chakraborty** took the **self-defence session** for 40 odd girls. **Rtn. Paromita Das Dutta**, dietician of CNCI, Kolkata, interacted with the girls and the management to understand the nutrition regime being followed in the home, and gave her invaluable inputs. Thereafter, **Ms. Ritasree Chatterjee**, clinical psychologist, took a **counselling session**, something extremely important and in fact, indispensable for the girls rescued from sex trade and/or rape, often by family members. Mr. Utpal Chakraborty and Ms. Ritasree Chatterjee were presented with framed drawings by our Pathshala beneficiaries.

Mission Happy Health

A. Cloth distribution drive



QuirkyBae, an innovative designer brand and proponent of sustainable material usage in garments industry, wanted to do something beyond their business scope during this festive time of the year. They wanted to donate their clothes to those, for whom, one new piece of cloth would mean the world. **Rotary Club of Calcutta Jadavpur** stood with them for the cause and appealed to the mass to donate new/almost-new clothes. Quirky Bae placed boxes in different reputed cafe of South Kolkata, and eventually the joint effort could collect around 400 clothes. **On 5th of Oct, QuirkyBae and RCCJ donated around 130 clothes to the residents of Loreto Rainbow Home in Loreto Bowbazaar and around 40 clothes at Sanlaap Sneha Home at Narendrapur. On 7th October, garments were donated to the residents of Ma Kaali Old Age Home at New Garia. While all the female residents were presented with saree, we did gift panjabis to the males.**

Mission Community Economic Development



On 1st October, in Dumdum Ananda Ashram Sarada Vidyapith, Reach India Trust in collaboration with Tech Mahindra Foundation and Landmark group and RCCJ, organised a seminar on employability. The different short-term courses that a HS qualified student or a graduate can take up to enhance his/her chances of employability, were highlighted and discussed. Reach India itself gives the opportunities to certain courses.

Mission Fight for Sight

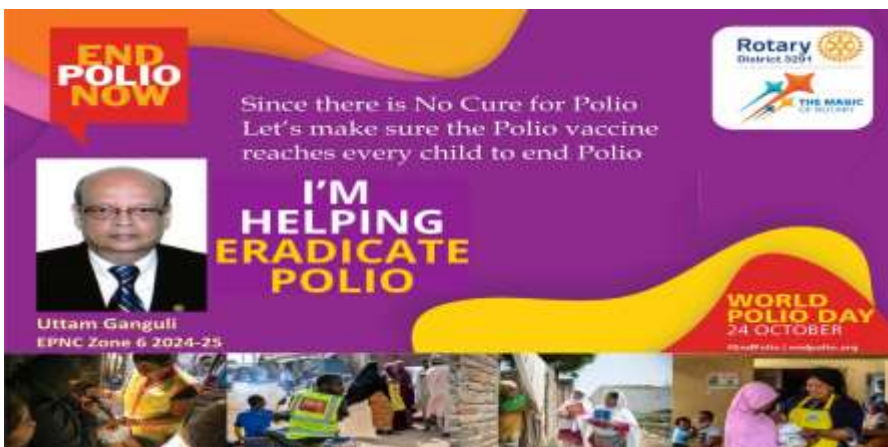


As a part of our ongoing activity, Rtn. (Dr.) Asim Sil and his team assessed the post-surgery condition of the glaucomatous eyes of 3 patients from the beneficiary family of North 24 Pgn on 9th Oct 24.

Memories of the Month...



On 6th October, RCCJ received complete set of 4 sewing machines from RC Calcutta as a part of their ongoing project Atmanirbhar II. RCCJ will donate two of them to Santoshpur Rishi Aurobindo Girls School, where the headmistress has agreed to allot a separate room for the machines where the mothers of the students from a needy background will be trained to stitch bags from discarded garments.



RCCJ participated in the District cultural program on Agomoni: Viswayoge Sararsange at Rotary Sadan on 2nd October, the District Bijoya Diwali Meet in the Eastern Metropolitan Club on 27th Oct and End-Polio Program on 29th October 2024 in Gyan Manch.

Memories of the Month...



Glimpses of Bijoya Shommiloni celebration of RCCJ at the Casa Broadway on 28th October.

Down Memory Lane..... (contd.)

ROTARY AS I REMEMBER:-



**Past President
Sambhu Narayan
Banerjee**

FATHER OF ROTARY

Paul Percy Harris was born on 19th April, 1868 in Racine, Wisconsin, USA. He was the second of six children. His father took him to live with his grandparents in Wallingford, New England when he was just three years old after the family ran into some financial troubles. Paul's grandparents filled him with zest to live a purposeful life. Growing up in Wisconsin, Harris was mischievous. He often used to skip school, climb out of his window while he was supposed to be sleeping, hop trains, set bent pins on the chapel for people to sit on, busy in cockfights with local boys etc. etc.

As he got older, Harris drifted from school to school, got involved with underground society and he was expelled many times. His beloved grandfather died while he was studying at Princeton. His grandfather had a strong influence in his future life. Then he started living with his grandmother. She advised him to live honorably for grandfather's sake and work hard. She also decided to send him to law school. He received a law degree from the University of Law School in 1891. During these days, Harris worked hard as orange picker, watchman, marble company salesman, cattleman on ship, newspaper reporter, business college teacher and a cowboy.

On 27th February, 1896, at the age of 27, Harris settled in Chicago and started practicing law representing victims of bankruptcy and embezzlement. During that time, many used to describe - 'Chicago' as "great sore of a city" or "hell on the earth" etc. The city was filled with people yet it was impersonal and Harris was lonely. He longed for a place where he could find friendly people whom he could trust. As a young man he was adventurous and inquisitive with a passion to explore life, places and people. He was the leader of a youth band called 'Conspirators'.

One day in 1900, Harris had dinner with one Bob Frank and after dinner they went out for a walk. On the way Bob stopped at all the side shops enquiring about them. Harris was impressed and wondered how Bob had made so many friends. Harris told Silvester Schiele, a client and coal dealer from a small town in Indiana, about his idea for a club. It would include members each from a different profession, who would gather for friendship and for mutual cooperation. They could join only if another member vouched for them. Over the next five years the idea began to take hold.

Harris and Schiele talked it over with Gue Loehr, a mutual client and mining engineer, who offered to hold the organizational meeting at his office. Loehr invited his friend Hiram Shrey, a merchant tailor. Harris hosted the next meeting when the fifth member, Harry Ruggles joined. By the third meeting the club had 15 members. At this meeting hosted by Schiele, they established long standing traditions such as paying fines for misdeeds and addressing fellow members by their first names which were quite unusual at that time. They decided at that time the name of the club as Rotary after the practice of rotating the meetings among club members' offices (*to be continued*).

THANK YOU FOR CHOOSING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE THROUGH YOUR DONATION IN CASH OR IN KIND



Rtn. Koyeli Dutt



Arpita Ghosh, spouse of Rtn. Manas K Ghosh

Media Reports of Importance to our Service Projects

সচেতন থাকলে অনটনেও সুস্থ হতে পারে শিশু ক্যানসার রোগী

জয়ন্তী রাহা

বড় শ্রেণির পুরুষের উপদ্রব ছিল পায়ে বাধা। শুধুশেষে কর্মছিল না। জ্বর ও পায়ে সমস্যা বাড়তে থাকায় হৃদয়লির হরিশালের বাসিন্দা, পেশায় চাষি বাসুদেব সরকার মেয়ে কবিতাকে নিয়ে যান নীলগরতন সরকার মেডিক্যাল কলেজ হাসপাতালে (এন আর এস)। চিকিৎসায় জানা যায়, ক্যান্সার হয়ে যাচ্ছে কবিতার শুক্রকণ্টক হাড়। একাদিক বার থায়োথ্রি করে ২০১৭ সালেই চিকিৎসকেরা জানিয়ে দেন, অ্যানাশ্রাসিক কার্ড সেল লিফোমায় (এএলসিএল) আক্রান্ত ওই কিশোরী। ২০১৯ সালে এন আর এসে তার শরীরের অস্থিমজ্জা পরিশোধন করে প্রতিস্থাপন হয়। সফল না হওয়ায় ফের দাদার অস্থিমজ্জা প্রতিস্থাপন হয় কবিতার শরীরে। বর্তমানে সুস্থ হচ্ছে কবিতা। কোনও কিছু সাহায্য নিয়ে চিকিৎসাও করতে পারে।

মুর্শিদাবাদের রামিনগর থানা এলাকার সাড়ে আট বছরের নুসরত জাহান শৈশবেই টিনে নিয়েছে হাসপাতালের শয্যা, স্যালাইন আর ওষুধের গন্ধ। কারণ, স্বর আর মুখে যা নিয়ে মেয়ে কেন একটিনো ভুগছে, তা জানতে নুসরতকে নিয়ে মা-বাবা যেতেন জোমকল হাসপাতালে। সেখানে রক্তের ক্যানসার বরা পড়লে তাকে পরানো হয় এসএসকেএমে। মিনমজুর মিজাবল হকের বড় মেয়ে নুসরতের চিকিৎসা শুরু হয় ওষুধ ও কেমোথেরাপি দিয়ে। একটিনা পুরো চিকিৎসার শেষে ঘরে ফিরেছে সে। ফুলেও যাচ্ছে।

প্রাথমিক পরিবারটি ছেলে আকাশ শর্মাকে নিয়ে চিকিৎসার জন্য এসেছিল বিহারের মধুবনী থেকে। তারা এখন কল্যাণীর বাসিন্দা। আকাশের বয়স যখন সাড়ে সাত, তখন টনসিল ফুলে সর্বকণ জ্বর হত। মা রিনা জানান, এ শহরে এসে এন আর এস হয়ে এসএসকেএমে হয় আকাশের চিকিৎসা। হজকিপ লিফোমায় আক্রান্ত আকাশের দু'বার অস্ত্রোপচার হয় সেখানে। পেশায় গ্যারাজকর্মীর বালক পুরের কলকাতা মেডিক্যাল কলেজ হাসপাতালে অস্থিমজ্জা প্রতিস্থাপন হয় চলতি বছরে। নিজেরই শরীরের অস্থিমজ্জা টিনে বিশেষ প্রক্রিয়ায় জীবাণুহীন করে ফের পরানো হয় তার শরীরে। সুস্থ হয়ে ঘরে ফিরেছে আকাশও।

ক্যানসারকে হারিয়ে মূল ভ্রোতে ফেরার লড়াইয়ে অন্যদের থেকে এগিয়ে বজবজের বিভলা মোক্তার বছর ২৬-এর অর্পণ সদয়। বাবা পেশায় বাসি। অর্পণের যখন চোখো বছর, তখন রক্তের ক্যানসার ধরা পড়ে। দীর্ঘদিন ঠাকুরপুরের ক্যানসার হাসপাতালে থেকে চিকিৎসা চলে। মিউজিক শিক্ষিকা পাণ্ডু সাহা ও হাসপাতালের চিকিৎসকদের সাহায্যে রং-তুলি তুলে নেন অর্পণ। আঁকা ছিল তার শব্দ। তাতেই ভূবে থাকতেন। চলতে থাকে ওষুধ এবং কেমোথেরাপি। সুস্থ হয়ে প্রতিমা গড়ার কাজকে পেশা হিসাবে বেছে নিয়েছেন অর্পণ। ভবানীপুর ৬৬ পল্লির পুরো এ বারেও ছোট প্রতিমাটি তাঁর তৈরি।

ঠাকুরপুরের একটি পুরো দশ ফুটের প্রতিমা-সহ কয়েকটি ছোট মূর্তি গড়ার ব্যস্ত পেয়েছেন। মাটি মাখা হাতে তুলে বাস্তবায়ন হাঁকে অর্পণ বলছেন, "ক্যানসার সব দিকেই বদলে দিয়েছে জীবন। ইতিবাচক আবেশে, সবকে পেশা করার সুযোগ দিয়েছে, পরিচিতি দিয়েছে, প্রতিমা তৈরির শক্তি দিয়েছে, বড় বড় মানুষের সান্নিধ্য দিয়েছে।" বাবা-মা, দাদা-ঠাকুরমা অর্পণের খুব প্রিয় হলেও সব থেকে প্রিয় তাঁর বোন। অর্পণের কথায়, "বোন আমার জীবনে মুশকিল আনান। ও-ই আমার দুর্গা।"

ওষুধ বলছে, কবিতা, নুসরত, আকাশ ও অর্পণদের মতো প্রাথমিক পরিবারের ছোটদের মতো ক্যানসার চিকিৎসার পুরো ব্যয় পেরোনো হয় খুব কম জনের। ফলে, অসময়ে থমকে যায় বহু জীবন। যেখানে যথার্থ সময়ে চিকিৎসা পেলে এবং তা পুরো করলে বেঁচে যেত জীবন। বিশেষ প্রতি বছর চার লাখ শিশু ও কিশোর-কিশোরী ক্যানসারে আক্রান্ত হয়। কিন্তু রোগ নির্ণয় হয় আর্দ্রকো। মোট আক্রান্তের ৯০ শতাংশ শিশুই নিম্ন ও মধ্য আয়ের দেশের বাসিন্দা। তবে আকাশদের পরিবারের মতো সচেতন থাকলে নিম্নবির পরিবারের শিশুও সুস্থ হতে পারে। তাই শিশুদের ক্যানসার সচেতনতার বেছে নেওয়া হয়েছে সচেতনতার মাসকে।

সেই সচেতনতার প্রসার ও পাশে থাকার ব্যাপারটি দিচ্ছে এক আঞ্চলিক বৈশ্বাসেবী সংস্থা ও শিশু ক্যানসার রোগীদের নিয়ে দীর্ঘদিন কাজ করা অন্য বৈশ্বাসেবী সংস্থা 'লাইফ বিয়ন্ড ক্যানসার'। সংস্থার তরফে পার্থ সরকার জানান, গত কয়েক বছর ধরে এসএসকেএম এবং এন আর এসে আসা ক্যানসার রোগীদের সহায়তা দেন তারা। গত দশ বছর ধরে ওষুধ, চিকিৎসা- খরচ নিয়ে দিশাহারা পরিবারগুলিকে পরামর্শ দিয়ে আপলো রাখছে সংস্থাটি। অনেকটা সেই কারণেই চিকিৎসা মাধ্যমে না থামিয়ে সম্পূর্ণ করার প্রবণতা বাড়ছে নিম্নবির পরিবারগুলিও।



Students of Dumdum Ananda Ashram Balika Vidyapith utilising tools donated by RCCJ to do some in campus kitchen gardening